

sarcasm, but writ large, in letters of fire, which
burnt and

branded. Moreover, a supreme destiny was reserved for him: His voice became at one moment that of the conscience of mankind.²

At the time of his birth the Victorian age was dawning in England. The Queen had lately married. Most of Tennyson's work was still undone, and so was Buskin's.

¹ See *post*, Appendix A. Declaration of the birth of Emile Zola,

² Anatole France, October 5, 1902.